Austin's Urban Forest Plan Update

Urban Forestry Board

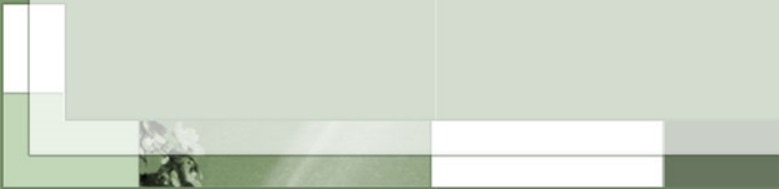August 20th, 2014

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Implementation Actions

- **Data collection, reporting metrics**

- **Departmental Operational Plans**

- **Standard of Care for Trees and Plants**

- **Interdepartmental Coordination**

- **Benchmarking and Alignment**

Data & Reporting Metrics

Status: In Progress

- Urban Forest Inventory and Analysis Project underway (USDA, TFS, COA)

- Implementation of TreeKeeper tree management software

- Management tools developed (Canopy prioritization map, etc)

Data & Reporting Metrics

Next Steps

- Develop Annual Urban Forest Report Card Indicators

- Institute standardized urban forest data fields

- Restructure tree-related 3-1-1 customer service requests for standardized data collection

- Urban Forest Report Card template to be developed. First report due in 2015.

Departmental Operational Plans

Status: In Progress

Deliverables: 14 DOPs by Sept 2015 that are useful to departments for annual planning

- 14 Departments and 70 programs identified

- DOPs: 6 categories, and 59 policy elements

- AWU Pilot department identified significant challenges to completing the DOP action matrix
  - Matrix too intimidating in its language and size

Departments & their DOPs

When complete, DOPs will provide:

- A proactive and coordinated approach to planning for trees and vegetation

- Long-term sustainability of operations, cost savings

- Budget justifications from Imagine Austin, and Urban Forest Plan connection

DOP Facilitated Process

Goals – Useful and doable, annually

Criteria for Process:

- Use conversations to engage
- Use incentives
- Be simple
- Leverage partnerships, collaborate, advocate for departments
- Build on existing reports and programs
- Use consensus, collaboration
- Use existing meetings & groups whenever possible

DOP Facilitated Process

**Phase 1 -
Research Phase**

- Learn what Depts are already doing, City-wide budget measures, what's important to key leaders, what data are most critical, successful programs we can highlight .

**Phase 2 -
Process Decisions**

- Make final decisions about process.
- Agree on simple message and communicate it.

**Phase 3 – Internal
Engagement**

- Break conversation into "pieces", e.g. 6 policy elements. Target those Departments for whom that topic is relevant.

Standards of Care

Status: Initiated

- April 2014   Drafted Public Land Classification system

- September 2014   Interdepartmental working group

- March 2015   Identify Urban Forest management

- March 2016   SOC in place

- March 2016   Brief to UFB

Interdepartmental Coordination

Status: In Progress

- Interdepartmental Tree Working Group (iTWG)

- Green Infrastructure Priority Program, Public Lands Management Team

Next Steps

- Revision of iTWG Charter

- Establish urban forest reporting process to City Manager

Benchmarking & Alignment

Status: In Progress

- Citywide inventory of urban forest related programs, staff and funding complete

- Urban Forest budget performance measures developed

Next Steps

- Benchmarks to be identified for annual reporting